

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 1, line 12 to read as follows:

This application is related to and claims priority benefit under 35 U.S. C. § 119(e) or 35 U.S. C. § 120 of Provisional Patent Application 60/197,848, filed April 14, 2000, Attorney Docket Number 50P3988, and entitled "User Interface for a Set-Top Box", Provisional Patent Application 60/197,308, filed April 14, 2000, Attorney Docket Number 50P3984, and entitled "Method for VOD", Provisional Patent Application 60/197,233, filed April 14, 2000, Attorney Docket Number 50P3877, and entitled "Cable Modem Set Top Box", Provisional Patent Application 60/197,234, filed April 14, 2000, Attorney Docket Number 50P3985, and entitled "Web Based EPG Support", and Provisional Patent Application 60/197,320, filed April 14, 2000, Attorney Docket Number 50P3983, and entitled "Support for tuning while viewing a Web Based EPG", and U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/775,692, filed February 3, 2001 entitled "Web Browser Plug in for TV" to Kimble et al. Docket No. 50N3463 which are each hereby incorporated by reference. U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/473,625, filed Dec. 29, 1999, Docket No. SONY-50N3508 entitled "Improved Internet Set-Top Box Having and In-Band Tuner and Cable Modem" is also hereby incorporated herein by reference.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 2, line 14 as follows:

~~Table Cable~~ and satellite television systems often utilize an electronic program guide (EPG) that assists the user in selecting television programming to watch. Conventionally, such a program guide is provided by the cable or satellite service operator. However, increasingly such guides are available from multiple ~~for multiple~~ sources including various Internet services. Unfortunately, utilizing such a web based EPG is cumbersome since a user generally requires a computer connection to the Internet followed by actions to address a particular web site in order to access a particular web based EPG. Thus, a user's options on which electronic programming guide to utilize are, for all practical purposes, limited to that supplied by the cable or satellite service provider.

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Please amend the paragraph spanning pages 14 and 15 to read as follows:

In order for the user to enjoy a comfortable and familiar electronic program guide experience, the present invention, in certain embodiments, utilizes a process illustrated as process 400 of FIGURE 4. This process starts at 404 with turning on the television set or set-top box incorporating the invention. After the device is powered up and initialized, the set-top box 22 (in the preferred embodiment) enters a mode of operation at 408 that provides normal television functions. That is, the television displays the programming of the currently tuned (or most recently selected) television channel. The television remains in this mode of operation at 408 until an appropriate input is received at 410. Such an input at 410 might include; for example, a command executed from a remote control 36 or from a front panel control of the set-top box or other connected device. In order to make the transition to a web based EPG smooth and seamless, the set-top box determines at 414 that the input command received at 410 is directed toward a browser function such as display of the electronic program guide. If not, control passes to 420 where the input is directed to the TV manager software module to implement control of the TV function in a conventional manner. Control then passes back to 408. The television manager utilized in the preferred embodiment of the present invention is described in greater detail in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/775,692 filed February 3, 2001 entitled Web Browser Plug in for TV to Kimble et al. Docket No. 50N3463, which is hereby incorporated by reference. The TV manager module, however, for purposes of this invention, is simply a software module or modules that interfaces directly or indirectly with a television tuner and other television components to implement television functions such as changing of channels, adjusting of volume and other television functions as distinguished from conventionally browser related functions.

Please amend the paragraph spanning pages 15 and 16 to read as follows:

In the event a program guide or other browser related function is being invoked by the input at 410 at 414, browser 182 is invoked at 424 and immediately directed to the URL associated with the users default program guide (or other function associated with the browser.)

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Thus, the browser is invoked and immediately directed to the electronic program guide for display on the television display 26 after which point the browser goes either at 430 awaiting the next input. The URL's associated web page is accessed either through a cable modem or out-of-band modem to the preferred cable embodiment in order to take advantage of ~~the high speed of~~ their relatively high speed, to thus enhance the responsiveness of the system. When an input is received at 434, a determination is made as to whether or not the input relates to a browser function or to a television function. If the input relates to a television function, the input is diverted at 434 to 420 where the television manager module implements the control function and passes control back to 408. However, if the input relates to a browser function (for example, directing the browser to a new web site or filing in text boxes at browser's currently opened page) and focus point (the location of the cursor or pointer), control passes to 440. At 440, the browser executes normal functions in a conventional manner and then returns to the browser idle state at 430. In this manner, the user's desire to invoke a web based electronic program guide occurs seamlessly upon execution of appropriate command to retrieve the EPG. Thus, the user's experience is similar to that provided by use of a service provider's electronic program guide in that the user simply invokes the guide by sending a simple command from a remote control, etc.

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